TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS) for Ethiopia

On October 21, 2022, Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro N. Mayorkas announced a designation of Ethiopia for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for 18 months. While the designation will go into effect on the publication date of the forthcoming Federal Registry Notice, the following is a guide on applying and receiving TPS.

STEP 1
File TPS Application
Required Documents for each Applicant:
- I-821 Forms, Application for Temporary Protected Status
- I-765 Form, Application for Employment Authorization
- Two passport-style photos per applicant
- Proof of identity and Ethiopian nationality (Passport, birth certificate, Photo ID, or national Identity document with photo/or fingerprint)
- Proof of date of entry to the US (I-94)
- Proof of physical presence before October 20, 2022
- I-912 Form, Request for Fee Waiver, as applicable. One may not have to pay the filing fee if she/he can document low income or receipt of specific benefit

Filing Fees:
- I-821 Form: $50 Per applicant
- I-765 Form: $410 Per applicant ages 14-65
- $85 Biometrics Fee per Applicant Ages 14+

STEP 2
Application Receipt and Biometrics Appointment Notice
- USCIS sends receipt notices by mail once it receives and reviews the application.
- You may call USCIS if there is no receipt within three weeks of filing: 1-800-375-5283

STEP 3
USCIS Application Support Center (ASC) Appointment:
Applicants will be scheduled for a biometrics appointment. Applicants should go to the USCIS’ Application Support Center for a Biometric Appointment with the following:
1. Evidence of nationality + Identity (e.g., Passport)
2. Biometrics Appointment Notice
3. Current EAD, if applicable.

Facts to know about TPS
- Allows you to stay in the US for the duration of TPS designation
- TPS doesn’t lead to lawful permanent residency
- TPS is valid for up to 18 months of the designation grant period.
- Extension or Re-designation is possible but not guaranteed.
- Beneficiaries are entitled to receive Work Authorization (via Form I-765)
- Beneficiaries are protected from removal proceedings (unless TPS is terminated based on criminal or security issues
- Can apply for a travel permit (via I-131)